



Ecological Integrity Monitoring & Impacts of Recreation

- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and State Parks are proposing to collaborate in addressing impacts to public lands from recreation and stressors, such as climate change.
- The goal is developing and applying **Ecological Integrity Monitoring (EIM)** methodology. EIM methods measure the current ecological integrity of a site through standardized and repeatable assessments.
- We support the WDFW request of **\$1.3 million**, State Parks request of **\$1.4 million**, and DNR's request of **\$7.8 million** in **Operating Budget** asks in working towards this effort.

RCO DEI, Tribal, and Data positions

- The **Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)** is requesting funding for several full-time positions:
 - One to act as the agency's tribal liaison.
 - One to coordinate and help implement internal and external equity work.
 - One position plus some funding for contracting to create better data and improve access to data as it pertains to trails, recreational access, and public lands ownership
- We support the combined total ask of **\$996,000 of ongoing Operating Budget funding** for these positions.

State Agency DEI Staffing & Investments

- **State Parks** is requesting **\$3 million** for staff to expand work on equity and inclusion efforts at the agency.
- The **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** is requesting **\$5.26 million** to create the Office of Equity and Environmental Justice within the agency and to expand its Tribal Affairs Department.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is requesting **\$696 thousand** for their Pro-Equity and Anti-Racism (PEAR) Investments.
- We support the combined ask of **\$15.22 million in Operating Budget** funding for this important work.

Trust Land Transfer (TLT)

- This request is to provide funding and legislation to transform the **Trust Land Transfer (TLT)** program based on a report and recommendations by a DNR and external stakeholder workgroup
- We support **HB 1423/SB 5372** and **HB 1460** as requested by DNR.

Parks RX Pilot Programs

- Metro Parks Tacoma, with support of WRPA, is seeking a directive that the Department of Health establish three (3) or more pilot "Parks Rx" programs in the Puget Sound, Eastern Washington, and SW Washington. This request builds from a just-completed DOH study indicating that Parks Rx programs would add **health care and quality of life** value to Washingtonians, particularly those from lower-income and historically disadvantaged communities.
- We support **SB 5095**, as requested by Metro Parks Tacoma and the WRPA.

Other Outdoor Grant Programs

The Coalition supports robust funding for these grant programs that help preserve lands and get Washingtonians outdoors in equitable ways.

- **No Child Left Inside (NCLI)** provides under-served youth with opportunities to experience the outdoors, often at WWRP-funded parks. With \$12 million in grant requests there is demand for additional funding beyond the \$4.5 million carry over.
 - The Coalition supports WWRC partners in requesting an increase of **\$4.5 million in ongoing Operating funds** for the No Child Left Inside grant program.
- **Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)** provides funds for the acquisition, development, and/or renovation of outdoor athletic facilities for youth competitive sports.
 - We support the **\$11.3m Capital Budget** request.
- **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)** provides funds for the acquisition, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands and waterfront access for public purposes.
 - We support the **\$9.1m Capital Budget request** (\$6.6m from ALEA account, \$2.5m from bonds) for ALEA.
- **Farmland Protection and Land Access Program (FPLA)** provides funds for **agricultural conservation easement funding** to permanently protect farm and remove speculative development value
 - We support the **\$4m Capital Budget request** for FPLA

Local Park Agency M&O Funding - COVID-19 Relief

- **Provides local parks agencies** with funding to address pressing maintenance and operations (M&O) backlog issues across the state.
- Will help address the significant COVID-related budget impacts felt by local parks agencies and the corollary sharp increase in use of local parks facilities, WRPA conducted an extensive survey to quantify a collective M&O backlog that exceeds \$700 million statewide.
- State funding would be administered and distributed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) via a similar ranked process to the WWRP
- We support this Funding as requested by the Washington Recreation & Parks Association (WRPA).